

**V55.0403**

**Conversations of the West: Antiquity and the Enlightenment  
“Imagination”**

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This course brings together three important and dynamic moments in the history of the Western engagement with concepts of the imagination. What roles does the imagination play in religion, philosophy, and literature? What does it mean to “imagine” for the writers of Hebrew scripture, for Plato, or for Descartes, Hume, or Jane Austen? What are the limits of imagination, and what do those limits tell us? How does imagining relate to thinking, desiring, and knowing?

**Course requirements:**

30% two 3-5 pp. papers  
20% midterm  
40% final  
10% section component

Please take advantage of Prof. Starr’s office hours. She is available to help you not just then but by appointment as well. Come talk about your papers, about what we read, about lecture, or just to introduce yourself. Additional assistance for this class is available to you free of charge at the College Learning Center located on the 1st Floor of Weinstein Hall (right behind Java City). For information on one-on-one and group peer tutoring, please stop by the CLC or go to their website:

<http://www.nyu.edu/cas/clc/index.html>

**N.B.** As a student in this course, you will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of plagiarism (including, but not limited to: copying or summarizing internet sources, failure to cite sources, and unauthorized collaboration) will result in failure. There are no exceptions and no second chances.

Tuesday 5 September		Introduction
Thursday 7 September	Homer	<i>Odyssey</i> (Books 1-10)
Tuesday 12 September		<i>Odyssey</i> (Books 11-16)
Thursday 14 September		<i>Odyssey</i> (Books 17-24)

Tuesday 19 September		Genesis
Thursday 21 September		Job
Tuesday 26 September	<b>Paper Due</b>	Job
Thursday 28 September	Plato	<i>Symposium</i>
Tuesday 3 October		<i>Phaedo</i>
Thursday 5 September		<i>Phaedrus</i>
Tuesday 10 October		Luke
Thursday 12 October		Revelation
Tuesday 17 October	Virgil	<i>Aeneid</i> (Books 1-4)
Thursday 19 October		<i>Aeneid</i> (Books 5-8)
Tuesday 24 October		<i>Aeneid</i> (Books 9-12)
Thursday 26 October	Augustine	<i>Confessions</i> (pp. 1-132)
Tuesday 31 October		<i>Confessions</i> (p. 133 ff.)
Thursday 2 November	Marlowe	<i>Doctor Faustus</i>
Tuesday 7 November	<b>Exam</b>	
Thursday 9 November	Descartes	<i>Meditations</i>
Tuesday 14 November	Newton	Norton ed., Part 6
Thursday 16 November		Norton ed., Part 8
Tuesday 21 November	Hume	<i>Enquiry</i>
Thursday 23 November		<b>Thanksgiving</b>
Tuesday 28 November	<b>Paper Due</b>	<i>Enquiry</i>
Thursday 30 November	Diderot	<i>Jacques the Fatalist</i>
Tuesday 5 December		<i>Jacques the Fatalist</i>

Thursday 7 December	Pope	"Rape of the Lock"
Tuesday 12 December	Austen	<i>Northanger Abbey</i>
Tuesday 19 December	<b>Final</b>	10-11:50

### **Texts**

*Oxford Study Bible*. Oxford. (0195290011)  
 Mitchell, Stephen. *The Book of Job*. Harper (recommended: 0060969598)  
 Augustine. *Confessions*. Oxford. (0192833723)  
 Plato. *Symposium*. Hackett. (0872200760)  
 Plato. *Phaedrus*. Hackett. (0872202216)  
 Plato. *Five Dialogues*. Hackett. (0872206335)  
 Austen. *Northanger Abbey*. Longman (0321202082)  
 Marlowe. *Doctor Faustus*. Oxford (0192834452)  
 Newton. *Newton*. Norton (0-393-95902-3)  
 Hume. *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. Hackett (0872204200)  
 Diderot. *Jacques the Fatalist*. Oxford. (0192838741)  
 Descartes. *Meditations*. Hackett. (0872204200)  
 Homer. *Odyssey*. Bantam (0553213997)  
 Virgil. *Aeneid*. Bantam. (0553210416)  
 Pope. *Rape of the Lock*. Bantam (0451528778)